

C O P Y

February 4, 1954

The Honorable Charles J. Kersten
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kersten:

Thank you for your expression of appreciation for the assistance this Committee and the Baltic Committees, which work with us, accorded the House Baltic Committee during its recent hearings.

We have indeed been able to observe reactions from Moscow in Pravda and in the puppet press and radio broadcasts of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. I should like to mention particularly the testimony of Mr. Alfreds Berzins which elicited a reaction from Moscow second only to that called forth by the testimony of Secretary of State Dulles. Seldom, if ever, has an emigre political leader from one of the captive countries been attacked in the pages of Pravda itself. And, as you know, several threats were made by telephone to Mr. Berzins, who is a member of the Committee for a Free Latvia which is connected with our Division of Exile Relations. The fact that Berzins slipped through their fingers and is carrying on anti-Communist activities abroad seems to be a very sore point with the Soviets.

As you know, Radio Free Europe is constantly engaged in keeping resistance strong and hope alive in the captive nations. Every endeavor of the sort which the amendment to H.R. 346 envisions constitutes news which is an invaluable addition to our broadcasts. I believe the House Baltic Committee hearings were useful in broadcasts to the Baltic countries, and I heartily agree that an expansion of the inquiry of the House Baltic Committee to the other satellite areas would be consistent with the objectives of the National Committee for a Free Europe and all other organizations engaged in this field.

This Committee has been pleased to support the House Baltic Committee in its recent undertakings, and I assure you, sir, that we are at your disposal for any future assistance it is within our capacity to extend.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted Signature]

President.

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